



Lowri Evans
Director General
DG Fisheries and Maritime Affairs
DG MARE
Rue de la Loi 200
B-1049 Brussels

29th of July 2010

Subject: Clarification of application of high grading ban in European waters

Dear Director General Mrs. Evans

I am writing to you to seek clarification regarding point 5 ter 1 of interim TCM Regulation currently in force. This legal provision envisages the adoption of a high-grading ban for all ICES areas.

In a previous Commission response, of 14th of July 2009, on the status of proposed legislation for technical conservation measures and discards, it was stated that the high-grading ban had already been established in the North Sea and Skagerrak, with the aim to be extended from 2010 to all Community waters.

The precise legal status of an extension of a high-grading ban outside of the North Sea, however, remains unclear. This question has been raised by our members in several Working Group meetings of the NWWRAC this year, and in the Executive Committee meeting held in Paris on the 7th of July.

I was wondering, therefore, if you could forward this request to the relevant officials and provide the NWWRAC with clarification on this matter.

Yours sincerely,

Sam Lambourn
Chairman of the North Western Waters RAC